

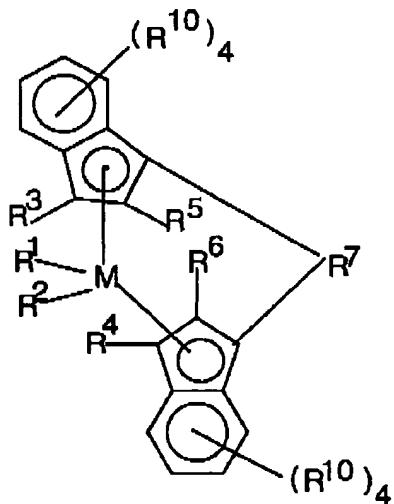
Appl. No. 10/717,056
 Attorney Docket No.: 2002B169/2
 Amdt. dated August 25, 2006
 Response to Office Action of April 26, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process of preparing a polymer composition that comprises branched crystalline polypropylene, having a melting point T_m of 145°C or more, said process comprising: contacting a metallocene catalyst compound represented by the formula:



wherein: M is a metal of Group 4, 5, or 6 of the Periodic Table;

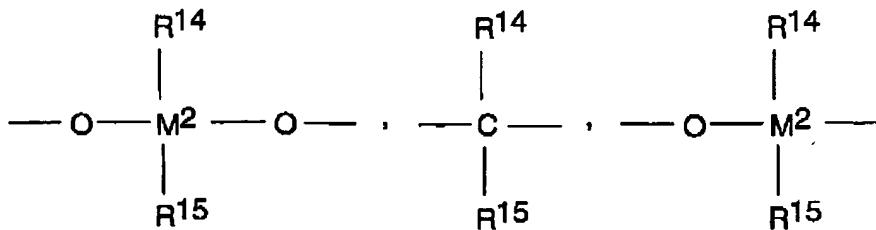
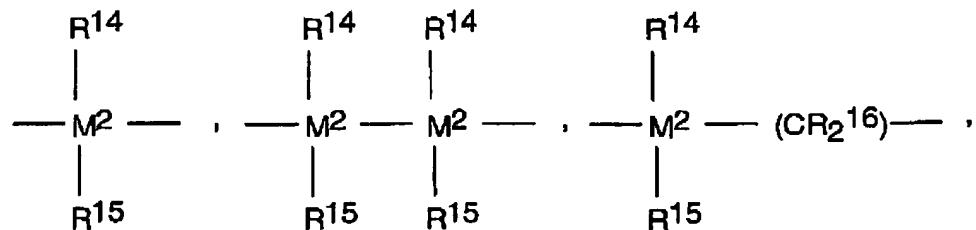
R¹ and R² are identical or different, and are one of a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryloxy group, a C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ arylalkyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, or a halogen atom, or a conjugated diene which is optionally substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl, tri(hydrocarbyl)silyl groups or hydrocarbyl, tri(hydrocarbyl)silylhydrocarbyl groups, said diene having up to 30 atoms not counting hydrogen;

the radicals R³, R⁴, and R¹⁰ are identical or different and have the meanings stated for R⁵ and R⁶, or two adjacent R¹⁰ radicals are joined together to form a ring;

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R^5 and R^6 are identical or different, and are one of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group, which may be halogenated, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group, which may be halogenated, a C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ arylalkyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, a -NR₂', -SR', -OR', -OSiR₃' or -PR₂' radical, wherein: R' is one of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group, or a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group;

R^7 is



-B(R¹⁴)-, -Al(R¹⁴)-, -Ge-, -Sn-, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -N(R¹⁴)-, -CO-, -P(R¹⁴)-, or -P(O)(R¹⁴)-;

wherein: R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₂₀ branched or linear alkyl group, a C₁-C₂₀ fluoroalkyl or silaalkyl group, a C₆-C₃₀ aryl group, a C₆-C₃₀ fluoroaryl group, a C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy group, a C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ arylalkyl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, or R¹⁴ and R¹⁵, together with the atoms binding them, form a cyclic ring;

M² is one or more carbons, silicon, germanium or tin;

with a polymerization medium that comprises propylene monomers; and less than 25 volume percent diluent; and conducting polymerization of the propylene monomers at a temperature greater than 70°C for a time sufficient to provide branched crystalline polypropylene

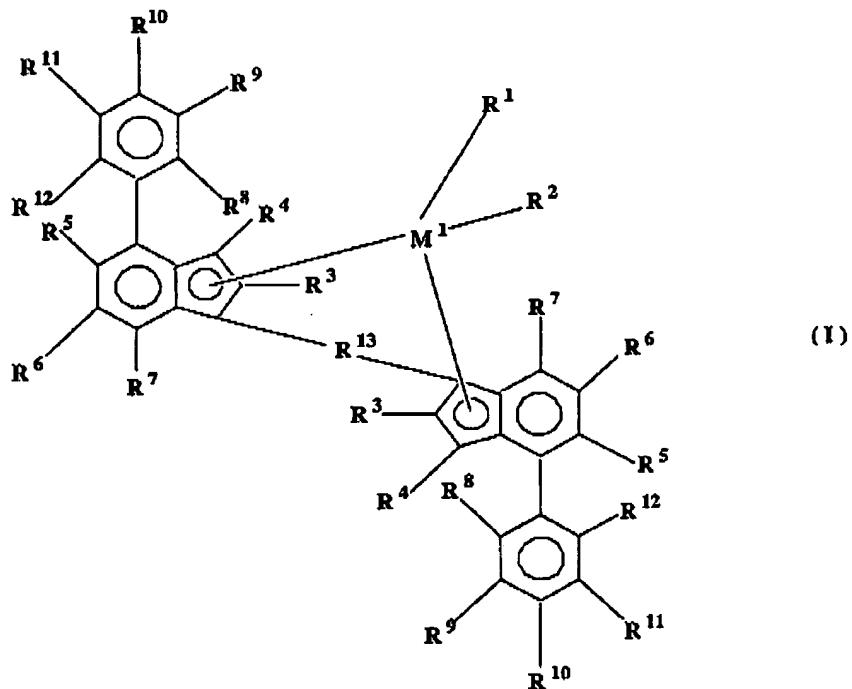
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that has from 0.0 wt% to 2.0 wt% ethylene, a branching index (g') of .97 or less and a heat of fusion of 70 J/g or more, wherein diene monomer has not been added to the polymerization medium and wherein the metallocene catalyst compound is combined with propylene in the absence of hydrogen.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the polymerization medium has less than 20 volume percent diluent.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the metallocene compound is represented by the formula:



wherein:

M^1 is selected from the group consisting of titanium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum and tungsten;

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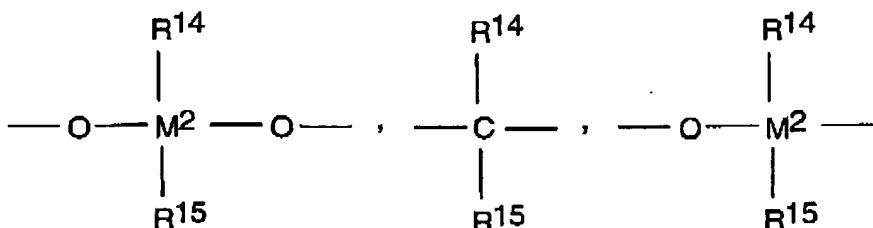
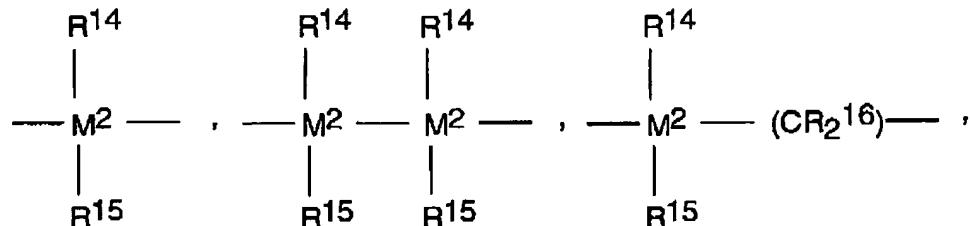
R¹ and R² are identical or different, and are one of a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryloxy group, a C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl group, a C₂-C₄₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ arylalkyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, an OH group or a halogen atom; R¹ and R² may also be joined together to form an alkanediyl group or a conjugated C₄-₄₀ diene ligand which is coordinated to M¹ in a metallocyclopentene fashion; R¹ and R² may also be identical or different conjugated dienes, optionally substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl, tri(hydrocarbyl)silyl groups or hydrocarbyl, tri(hydrocarbyl)silylhydrocarbyl groups, said dienes having up to 30 atoms not counting hydrogen and forming a π complex with M;

each R³ is identical or different from the other R³ and is each a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group which may be halogenated, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group which may be halogenated, a C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ -arylalkyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, a -NR'₂, -SR', -OR', -OSiR'3 or -PR'2 radical, wherein R' is one of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl group, or a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group;

R⁴ to R⁷ are identical or different and are hydrogen, or are as defined for R³ or two or more adjacent radicals R⁵ to R⁷ together with the atoms connecting them form one or more rings;

R¹³ is

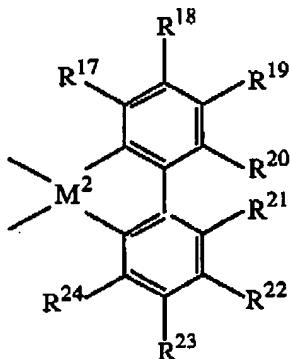
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-B(R¹⁴)-, -Al(R¹⁴)-, -Ge-, -Sn-, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -N(R¹⁴)-, -CO-, -P(R¹⁴)-, or -P(O)(R¹⁴)-;

wherein: R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are identical or different and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₂₀ branched or linear alkyl group, a C₁-C₂₀ fluoroalkyl or silaalkyl group, a C₆-C₃₀ aryl group, a C₆-C₃₀ fluoroaryl group, a C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy group, a C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ arylalkyl group, a C₈-C₄₀ arylalkenyl group, a C₇-C₄₀ alkylaryl group, or R¹⁴ and R¹⁵, together with the atoms binding them, form a cyclic ring;

or, R¹³ is represented by the formula:



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wherein: R¹⁷ to R²⁴ are as defined for R¹ and R², or two or more adjacent radicals R¹⁷ to R²⁴, including R²⁰ and R²¹, together with the atoms connecting them form one or more rings; M² is one or more carbons, silicon, germanium or tin; and R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² are identical or different and have the meanings stated for R⁴ to R⁷.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 in which the polymerization medium has a first phase that comprises propylene monomers and a second phase that comprises the branched crystalline polypropylene.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1 in which the polymerization medium has a first phase that comprises propylene monomers and a second phase that comprises the branched crystalline polypropylene, wherein the first phase has less than 20 volume percent diluent.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 in which the polymerization medium has a first phase that comprises propylene monomers and a second phase that comprises the branched crystalline polypropylene, wherein the second phase is a solid phase.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 in which the polymerization medium has a first phase that comprises propylene monomers and macromers and a second phase that comprises the branched crystalline polypropylene.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization of the propylene monomers is conducted at a temperature of 75°C or higher.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization of the propylene monomers is conducted at a temperature of 80 °C or higher.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization of the propylene monomers is conducted at a temperature of 90 °C or higher.

12. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a crystallization temperature (Tc) of 100 °C or more.

13. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a crystallization temperature (Tc) or 105 °C or more.

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14. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a crystallization temperature (Tc) of 110 °C or more.

15. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a crystallization temperature (Tc) of from 105 °C to 110 °C.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a melting point (Tm) of 150 °C or more.

18. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a melting point (Tm) of 155 °C or more.

19. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a melting point (Tm) of 160 °C or more.

20. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a melting point (Tm) of from 145 °C to 160 °C.

21. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Melt Flow Rate of 0.5 or more.

22. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Melt Flow Rate of 0.7 or more.

23. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Melt Flow Rate of 1.0 or more.

24. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Melt Flow Rate of 1.5 or more.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which the metallocene comprises dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-4-phenyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dimethyl.

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26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which the metallocene comprises dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-4-phenyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dimethyl or dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-4-phenyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which the metallocene comprises dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-4-naphthyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dimethyl or dimethylsilylbis (2-methyl-4-naphthyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride.

28. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which the metallocene comprises a dimethylanilinium tetrakis (perfluorophyl) boron activator.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which the metallocene comprises a methylaluminoxane activator.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, in which polymerization medium has ~~less than less than~~ 10 volume percent diluent.

33. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a propylene content of 97 wt% or more.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene is isotactic or syndiotactic.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the heat of fusion of the branched crystalline polypropylene is 80 J/g or more.

38. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the Heat of fusion of the branched crystalline polypropylene is 90 J/g or more.

39. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the heat of fusion of the branched crystalline polypropylene is 100 J/g or more.

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40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Branching Index of 0.95 or less.

42. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Branching Index of 0.90 or less.

43. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched crystalline polypropylene has a Branching Index of 0.80 or less.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization medium comprises more than 70% propylene monomers by volume prior to the beginning of polymerization.

46. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization medium consists essentially of propylene monomers.

47. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the polymerization medium consists essentially of monomers and a substantially inert solvent or diluent.

48. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the branched polypropylene is a homopolymer.

49. (New): A process of preparing a branched crystalline homopolypropylene composition, comprising:

contacting a polymerization mixture that comprises propylene monomers with a bridged metallocene compound that has at least two indenyl rings or derivatives of indenyl rings, each ring being substituted at the 2 and 4 positions, activated with a non-coordinating anion; and conducting polymerization of the propylene monomers for a time sufficient to form branched crystalline polypropylene composition having a heat of fusion of 70 J/g or more, a T_m of 145 °C or more, and a g' or 0.97 or less.